

PAPER CUT Z

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE THIRD
TERRIFYING ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
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KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"A MURDERIN' IDOL"

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WINTER

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ARTIST

DINGIKORE

GO! SB

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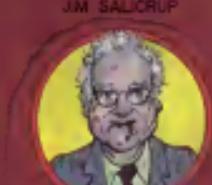
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THE OLD EDITOR

Comments by Rich Pankratz

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PAPERCUZ
NO. 3
ALL-NEW!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT



\$3.95
\$4.95 CAN

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



A MURDERIN'
IDOL! AS NOT
SEEN ON TV!



WASSUP WITH THE CRYPT-KEEPER?

GLAD YOU AXED! HE'S BEEN READING THE ONLINE REVIEWS OF HIS LATEST CRYPT COMIC! HEH HEH!



EITHER HE'S SO SELF-ABSORBED THAT'S HE'S GHULGED HIMSELF TO DEATH OR THE REVIEWS ARE WAY SCARIER THAN HIS STORIES -- HE HASN'T BUDED IN HOURS!

WELL, OLD WITCH, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY-- EC COME, EC GO!

HEY, THAT'LL LOOK GROOVY IN MY VAULT!

OL' C-K REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER DESPERATELY NEEDY NINCOMPOOP NAMED JAYSAN! HE TOO WANTED TO BE LOVED BY MILLIONS! THAT'S WHY JAYSAN HOPED TO BECOME THE POPSTAR IDOL! HERE'S A FRIGHTENING FABLE FROM MY WITCH'S CAULDRON CALLED...

A Murderin'
Idol





DEJECTED BUT DETERMINED,
THE POTENTIAL POPSTAR
WANDERS BACK HOME...

DARN IT! I'M GONNA GET
IN LINE LATER TONIGHT TO
MAKE SURE I GET IN! I'D
SELL MY SOUL TO GET
ON THAT SHOW!

PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS THOUGHTS, HE
DOESN'T NOTICE A LARGE ROCK SLOTTING
HIS PATH AND STUMBLIES OVER IT...



LITTLE REALIZING HOW TRUE HIS STATEMENT IS, HE FLIPS THROUGH THE TOME...

IT'S IN SOME WEIRD LANGUAGE—THOUGH I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND IT!



I GUESS IT IS IN ENGLISH AFTER ALL! IT LOOKED FOREIGN AT FIRST, BUT NOW I CAN READ IT! IT'S SOME SORT OF BOOK OF MAGIC SPELLS THAT CAN MAKE ANY WISH COME TRUE!

WELL, I DON'T NEED IT! I HAVE ALL THE RAW TALENT I NEED TO MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE!



HOWEVER, IT COULDNT HURT TO HAVE A LITTLE HELP, I GUESS!



JAYSON TAKES THE BOOK HOME, AND WHILE GLORIA IS AT WORK, HE PORES THOUGH ITS PRIMORDIAL, YELLOWED PAGES...

ACCORDING TO THIS, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SCRIBBLE SOME STRANGE DOODLES ON THE FLOOR AND PERFORM SOME SORT OF >BLUPK SACRIFICE!



COPYING THE ARCANE FIGURES FROM THE BOOK, HE CONTEMPLATES HIS NEXT STEP...

I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE A BLOOD OFFERING TO SUMMON A DEMON TO GRANT MY WISH. BUT I CAN'T KILL SOMETHING...OR CAN I? I'VE GOT TO WIN ON POPSTAR IDOLS!



PLACING A MOUSETRAP ON THE PINE, HE LOADS IT WITH HEAPS OF PEANUT BUTTER...

GLORIA'S BEEN BUGGING ME ABOUT GETTING RID OF THE MICE IN THE APARTMENT, SO I'LL MAKE HER WISH COME TRUE, TOO!



HIDING IN THE SHADOWS, JAYSAN DOESN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG...

HAD IT WORKED? NOW WHAT?

SNAP!

SQUEEEEEE!!!

BEFORE HIS ASTONISHED EYES, THE DEAD MOUSE IS CONSUMED IN FLAMES AND A STRANGE SMOKE RISES WITH AN OFFENSIVE SULFURIC SMELL!









PULLING FREE FROM JAYSON, GLORIA SLIPS ON SOME SOapy WATER AND...



THERE IS NO RESPONSE AS HER LIFELESS BODY STARTS TO IGNITE ON TOP THE DEMONIC SYMBOLS!



A BIGGER DEMON!

YOU
SUMMONED ME
WHAT IS YOUR
WISH?











BUT JAYSAN DOES
HAVE HIS DOUBTS

I'LL HAVE TO
MAKE SURE I'LL
MAKE ANOTHER
OFFERING SO BIG
I'LL HAVE
TO WIN!

THE NEXT DAY AT PRACTICE...

EVEN THOUGH
IT'S EVERY MAN FOR
HIMSELF, GOOD LUCK,
JAYSAN! E--WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

EH, I'M
AN ARTIST IN MY
SPARE TIME AND THIS
IS A GOOD LUCK
SYMBOL I LIKE
TO DRAW!

HEY, WHATEVER IT'S
KINDA ODD, BUT IF IT
WORKS FOR YOU--

WHOMP!

ACCCK!





I'M GOING TO BE A FINALIST BUT TO MAKE SURE I WIN, I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHO WOULD MAKE THE GREATEST SACRIFICE POSSIBLE TO MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE!

SURE ENOUGH, WHEN THE LAST TWO FINALISTS ARE ANNOUNCED, ONE OF THEM IS...

--JAYSAN!

YAYY!!
WHOO-HOO!!
JAYSAN!!

THE AUDIENCE LOVES ME!

MAYBE I CAN WIN ON MY OWN WITHOUT ANY MORE DEMONIC HELP!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE FINALISTS, SLYMON?

AN UTER TRAVESTY! WE'VE BEEN SOME REAL TALENT GOT VOTED OFF IN FAVOR OF THAT GATEWAILING BANSHEE JAYSAN! IF HE WINS, IT'LL BE A NEW LOW FOR MUSICAL STANDARDS!

I WOULD WIN IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT ROWELL ALWAYS BAD-MOUTHING ME! HE JUST VOTED HIMSELF AS TOP FINALIST FOR THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE THAT WILL ASSURE MY VICTORY!











WHAT COMIC?
I DON'T SEE ANY
COMIC! YOU MUST
BE DREAMING!

NO! PLEASE!
PLEASE! I'M
BEGGING YOU!

DERRICK! GIVE
IT BACK! IT'S MY
FAVORITE, MOST
VALUABLE COMIC
EVER!









**KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK**

COME
ON! COME ON!
I HAVEN'T GOT
ALL NIGHT!



CREAAAACKKK

WELCOME
TO THE HALLOWED
HALLS OF JUSTICE!











NOW LET'S
HAVE A LOOK AT
WHAT YOU'VE
BROUGHT!

A WONDERFUL BOOK!
ARCHETYPAL!

THE EYE-FOR-
AN-EYE MORALITY
IN IT PUNS THICK
AND DEEPY

I'LL GIVE YOU
FIVE DUCKS!

WHAT?
BUT...BUT...





GOOD THING YOU
SHOWED ME HOW TO
OPEN IT, HUH?

YOUR SECURITY
BOX WON'T CARE IF
YOUR FINGERPRINT'S
ALIVE OR DEAD!



IN FACT, I BET
NOBODY CARES IF
YOU'RE ALIVE OR
DEAD!





AND WHY'S IT SO
FREAKIN' COLD ALL
OF A SUDDEN?



WHO CARES?
ONCE I SELL THIS,
I'LL BE RICH!
I CAN
EVEN HIRE SOME
GOON TO GET THAT
FREAK RICO OFF
MY BACK!

PURE
EVIL



UH...WASN'T THIS
THE EXIT?







IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THAT WAS THE OLD
MAN'S FACE!



IT'S SOME KIND
OF TRICK!

THAT'S NOT A WALL!
IT'S SOME KIND OF
PLASTIC!





AFTER A LIFETIME OF COLLECTING
HEROES, I FINALLY FIGURED IT WAS
TIME TO COLLECT A FEW VILLAINS
TO BALANCE THINGS!

I'D NO
IDEA HOW EASY
IT WOULD BE!

HA-HA-HA-
HEH!

**PURE
EVIL**

NO! PLEASE!
PLEASE! I'M
BEGGING YOU!

THE END





THE CRYPT-KEEPER

Salutations, you CRAZED CONSUMERS of PUTRID PAPERCUTZ PUBLICATIONS! Time once again for our VICIOUS VERBAL exchange, regarding our previous phantasmagorical issues!

But first, here's the SHOCKING results of the voting on TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2! "THE TENANT" by Neil Kleid and Steve Mannion just narrowly beat out "THE GARDEN" by Fred Van Lente and Mr. Eex as BEAST, er, best story!

For any of you FOOLISH FRIGHT-FANS who missed our first two TERROR-FILLED issues, I've got good news for you! Our GREEDY publishers have rushed paperback and hardcover books into print collecting most of those stories - they're cleverly called TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild!" and it's on sale now at BOOKstores everywhere! There's even an all-new TERROR-TALE by Dan McGregor and Sbo Murase called "RUNAWAY ROADKILL" that's to DIE for!

Subject: Tales from the Crypt!!

It's hard to put into words exactly how happy I was to discover that Papercutz is publishing new TFTC comics (and I am **NOT** a comic book person). I was always a huge fan of the show, but have never had the good fortune to get my hands on one of the comics. So I settled for perusing the guys at my local comic store (mouthing) for anything similar. I managed to find a compilation of "The House of Mystery," but hungered for more. Today, I got it. And I'm sickened. I am dying (ha ha) for the next issue to hit the stands. Thanks so much for resurrecting this awesome comic. I'll be with you guys till the end.

Natalie Vazquez,
Puerto Rico

Just until the end, Natalie? What kind of sickle fun are you?

Subject: New Tales From the Crypt Comics

Haha, I am writing in regards to your new Tales From the Crypt comicbook series. While I appreciate your efforts to revive such a quality publication, I feel that you are going about it incorrectly. You say that you want to keep true to the original, yet you've toned down the content to such a degree, that it doesn't even resemble the horrors from half a century ago. Even though it may seem somewhat tame now, back in the day, Tales From the Crypt was considered very edgy and gory. Had it not been for the atmosphere at the time, it would have been even more visceral. Now, standards are such that you can get away with putting a lot more violent content in comicbooks. By toning down the blood, you are not only abiding by standards that are over half a century old, but you are being less gory than even the original comics were!

I also feel that you do not understand the way Tales from the Crypt "shock" endings work. You acknowledge and utilize shock at the end, but not in the way they were intended. You can't just have some random twist at the end, it has to have a social message to it (a "preachy"). Additionally, the end is typically met with a bloody surprise. This final panel is met with a narrative box that describes the gore-shock in great detail, which gives the reader a better description and creates a sense of uneasiness.

Now we have to talk about the artwork. I don't expect you to mimic the realistic noir-esque panels of the original to a tee, but at least give it a shot. Your artwork in these new comics doesn't even look remotely realistic. It looks like something out of a damn Nickelodeon cartoon!

In closing, I would like to ask you to please reconsider your new vision of these comics or discontinue them and let the crypt rest peacefully while you concentrate on Nancy Drew or something.

Nathan Wakefield

I feel your pain, Nathan. Unfortunately, I'm stuck with Selfcrap as editor!

Subject: TFC Stories

I've read some of the comments about the art seeming like it's geared more towards young children. And while I somewhat agree with that... the stories are quite good and very mature! I thought that they were very nostalgic of the classic EC Tales from The Crypt comics. In the last issue I really enjoyed "The Garden," it kept me guessing all the way 'til the end but "The Tenant" was definitely my favorite. It really reminded me of the typical 'Poetic Justice' that was often dealt from the old Tales from The Crypt stories.

CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

Jeremy Seth Brauner
Tustin, CA

No need to wait, Jeremy—it's here!

Subject: smiling to you, dear

My dear friend, I am pretty and passionate Ukrainian woman, but I am lonely. My heart dies without love as beautiful flower dies without water. I need to love and to be beloved as rose needs to be watered every day. I need kisses and love as no flower can live without sunny rays. Waiting for your response.

Josi

Subject: Thanks for renaming the greatest comic of all time.

Hi. I've been a fan of Tales from the Crypt for a long time now. Too young for the initial run, but I read a bunch of the reprints, and watched the show. I just finished the new issue #2, and have to say the new comics completely and totally lived up to the originals, the stories are just as creepy, and the art is just completely fabulous. My only complaint is that there is no possibility to get a subscription to "TFTC." Just leaving my opinion, and asking if you are going to also revive the "Vault of Horror" and "Haunt of Fear"? Thanks,

A Fan

An interesting query, Al! What do the rest of you EC Fan-Addicts think?

As for subsCRYPTions, just send us a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00 for a one-year, six-issue subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Subscriptions begin with the next issue published after we receive your order.

Subject: Keep up the good work!

Hey, I'd just like to say that I LOVE YOUR TALES FROM THE CRYPT COMICS! I still love the originals, but these are easier for me to read (I'm 13). The artwork is semi-good in "The Garden" though. My favorite comic so far was in issue #2 called "The Tenant." Keep up the semi-afic world! Thank you to the people and my favorite dead-wood run, The Crypt-Keeper! I am in love with the HBO series but most definitely the comic I grew up with them since my parents are horror fiend-itics! Love the comics and love the gore!

Maggot Kisses,
Lesley

Thanks, Lesley! If we haven't rotted your young mind yet, maybe we will next issue!

That's all for now! Don't miss TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4—featuring virtual madness by Neil Kleid and Chris Noeck entitled "Extra Life" and a prescient preachy by Dan McGregor, James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook called "Crystal Clear"!

And keep those emails and letters coming, kiddies! Tell us what you thought of this stratospheric, yet transcendental third issue. Send your letters to:

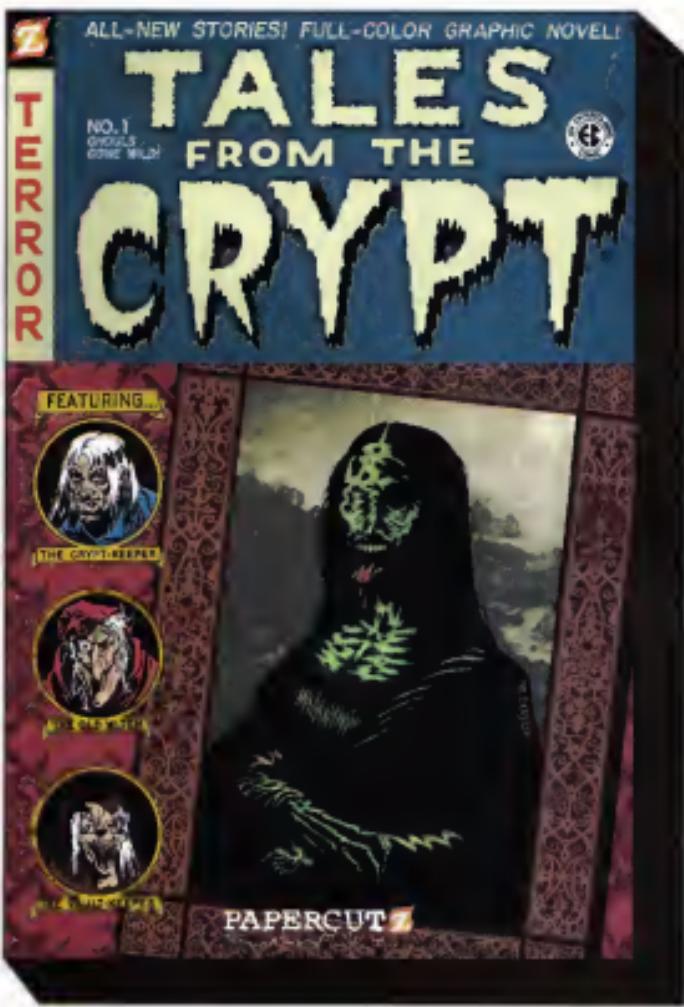
The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your criticaled commentaries to our egomaniacal editor at: salcrap@papercrete.com.

Get back to me after you die, José! (Got to get a new spam-filter!)

E.C. FANS!

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YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
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YOU'VE DEMANDED!



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